

Message Text

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47

ACTION FBO-05

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R 211205Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3998

INFO USIA WASHDC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BUDAPEST 2707

FOR A/FBO AND EUR/EX

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: ABLD, HU

SUBJ: PHOTOGRAPHS OF USG PROPERTIES IN BUDAPEST

REF: DEPT'S OM'S DATED SEPT 11, 1974 AND JULY 21, 1975

1. DEPARTMENT'S JULY 21, 1975 OM RENEWING ITS SEPTEMBER 11, 1974 REQUEST FOR EXTERIOR AND INTERIOR PHOTOGRAPHS OF ELEVEN (11) USG-OWNED PROPERTIES IN BUDAPEST JUST CAME TO MY ATTENTION. IF BRIEFERS HAD MENTIONED THIS MATTER TO ME DURING MY MARCH-APRIL 1975 CONSULTATIONS IN WASHINGTON PRIOR TO COMING TO POST, I WOULD HAVE ATTENDED TO IT PROMPTLY AFTER MY ARRIVAL. EMBASSY STAFF IS NOW BELATEDLY IN PROCESS OF DOING JUST THAT.
2. WITH REGARD LAST PARA DEPARTMENT'S SEPTEMBER 11, 1974 OM, ONE SHOULD NOTE THAT USIS BUDAPEST HAS NO PHOTOGRAPHERS ON ITS STAFF. EMBASSY THEREFORE FINDS ITSELF OBLIGED TO SEEK OUTSIDE HELP. INITIAL CONTACT WITH COMMERCIAL PHOTOGRAPHIC FIRM HAS ELICITED \$1500 BID, A SUM WE CONSIDER OUTRAGEOUS. WE ARE NOW SEEKING OTHER BIDS; BUT WE RECOGNIZE WE MAY ULTIMATELY HAVE NO RECOURSE OTHER THAN USIS VIENNA OR EVEN USIS BONN IN ORDER TO GET WORK ACCOMPLISHED AT REASONABLE PRICE.
3. EMBASSY WILL DO ITS UTMOST TO GET EXTERIOR AND INTERIOR

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COLOR SHOTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH DEPARTMENT'S DIRECTIONS. WE

RECOGNIZE, HOWEVER, THAT WE MAY ENCOUNTER DELAYS AND DIFFICULTIES OBTAINING INTERIOR PHOTOGRAPHS AT CERTAIN PREMISES OCCUPIED BY SO-CALLED SQUATTERS (ORA UT 20 AND TUNDER UT 1 - PROP. NO. 02244, MATYAS KIRALY UT 34 - PROP. NO. 07244, AND TANCICS MIHALY UT 9 - PROP. NO. 10244); WE EXPECT THAT IT WILL NOT BE EASY TO TAKE INTERIOR PHOTOGRAPHS AT VIGYAZO FERENC UT 3-5 (PROP. NO. 03244), PROPERTY WHICH IS OCCUPIED BY RENT-PAYING HUNGARIAN COMMERCIAL TENANTS; AND WE HAVE NO REASON TO HOPE THAT GOVERNMENT OF HUNGARY WILL ALLOW PHOTOGRAPHER IN EMPLOY OF USG TO TAKE INTERIOR SHOTS OF PREMISES AT ZRINYI UT 2-4 (PROP. NO. 03244) WHICH IS OCCUPIED BY HUNGARIAN POLICE AND FOR WHICH THEY PAY RENT REGULARLY.

4. EMBASSY HAS ALSO NOTED THAT DEPARTMENT'S SEPTEMBER 11, 1974 OM MAKES NO REFERENCE TO USG-OWNED PROPERTIES AT ZUGLIGETI 93 (PROP. NO. 05244) AND BIMBO UT 151 (PROP. NO. 14244). UNLESS INSTRUCTED TO CONTRARY WE WOULD PLAN TO PROVIDE PHOTOGRAPHS OF THESE PROPERTIES, TOO.

5. JUST AS SOON AS EMBASSY STAFF HAS DEVELOPED ADDITIONAL COST DATA, WE SHALL PROVIDE DEPARTMENT WITH TELEGRAPHIC REPORT. UNTIL THAT PRELIMINARY WORK ACCOMPLISHED, IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO ESTIMATE WHEN EMBASSY CAN SUBMIT PHOTOGRAPHS TO WASHINGTON.

6. THIS BUSINESS HAS ALREADY LANGUISHED FAR TOO LONG; BUT IT NOW HAS MY PERSONAL ATTENTION AND IT IS MOVING.
MCAULIFFE

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